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NOTES: WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Pursuant to the recommendations of the National Conference on Criminal Law and Criminology, held last June in Chicago under the auspices of the Law School of Northwestern University, a Wisconsin Conference on Criminal Law and Criminology was held in Madison on Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27, 1909. The conference was called at the instance of a committee of organization composed of citizens of Madison, representing the various callings and professions, and the Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin. The list of persons invited included the judges of the supreme court, of the circuit and municipal courts, district attorneys, leading members of the bar, physicians, educators and administrative officers. There were about 135 in attendance. The conference, which was presided over by Circuit Judge E. Ray Stevens, opened with a welcome from President Van Hise of the University and from Governor Davidson. These were followed by two addresses, one on "The Ritual of Punitive Justice," by Prof. Roscoe Pound, of the University of Chicago, and the other on the "Problems Before the Conference," by Justice William H. Timlin, of the Wisconsin supreme court. After these addresses the conference broke up into eight committees on the following subjects, to each of which had been previously assigned from four to eight related topics for consideration: The jury; trial procedure; trial of the issue of mental responsibility; appeals and reversals; organization of courts; juvenile offenders; probation, parole, pardon, and indeterminate sentence; causes and prevention of crime.

Friday afternoon and evening were spent in committee work. The full conference reconvened Saturday morning and received reports from the committees. The discussions of these reports, and the recommendations accompanying them, furnished the program for the day. This being the first conference, the work was largely preliminary and educational. While there was much discussion, both in the committees and in the full conference, no definite affirmative action was taken on any of the propositions submitted. All important questions were referred for further consideration to a similar conference to be held a year later. The conference adopted a recommendation of the committee on resolutions requesting the Board of Regents of the University to consider the advisability of establishing a professorship for the critical study of the results of remedial law. At the close of the conference a resolution was adopted to form a permanent organization as the Wisconsin branch of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. An executive council of nine was appointed to work out the details of organization. To this council was also referred various propositions and recommendations of the conference and the preparation of the next program. The council will appoint several special committees to consider these propositions and recommendations, and their reports will be made the basis of the program for the next meeting, which will be held in November, 1910. The sessions of the conference were held in the building of the Law School of the University. The out-of-town delegates were entertained by the committee on organization at the University Club and at the homes of Madison citizens.¹

¹Furnished by Prof. E. A. Gilmore.